

There is provided a method and apparatus for synchronization of topology state information between two network nodes in a communications network. The communications network has a routing protocol for intermittent advertisement of local state information throughout the network. The two network nodes include a requesting node which initiates a request for topology state synchronization and a replying node which receives the request. The replying node communicates with the requesting node to provide topology state information to the requesting node which is not possessed by the requesting node when the requesting node initiates its request. The method includes the step of selecting, prior to the request being made by the requesting node to the replying node, between a first and a second mode of synchronization. The first mode provides for topology state synchronization which entails withdrawal of the intermittent advertisement of local state information as it pertains respectively to the requesting node and to the replying node. The second mode provides for topology state synchronization which maintains the intermittent advertisement of local state information as it pertains respectively to the requesting node and to the replying node.